

ALL OVER THE WORLD

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Daniel 8 presents a remarkable prophecy, known as the 2,300 evenings and mornings prophecy. At the end of this prophetic period, in 1844, a group of people from different denominations began to study the Bible thoroughly and found biblical truths that were rejected or forgotten.

With great zeal, they began disseminating these biblical truths within their churches. However, when their churches rejected these truths and disfellowshipped some individuals for spreading them, they decided to organize the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists between May 20 and 24, 1863.

They also found in the book of Revelation that Jesus expected them to enlarge the proclamation of these restored truths, reaching “to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6). This understanding led the Seventh-day Adventists to reject the “congregationalist” system of governance, that was embraced by the majority of other Christian denominations.

The “congregationalist” system of governance seems very appealing at first glance. It offers great independence to the local congregation, allowing each one to operate almost as an autonomous entity without significant organizational, theological, or financial accountability.

However, by studying Bible prophecies, Adventist pioneers soon realized that Jesus’ commission was so great that it would require highly coordinated efforts fostered by mutual trust and mutual submission. After much study, they also found in the Bible a model that led them to adopt the “representative” system of governance, in which all churches are united in doctrine, planning, and action. Financial resources are also put together and then equitably distributed.

They saw that it was only by uniting human and financial resources that the Holy Spirit would enable them to do more, go faster and farther, and reach the entire planet more rapidly.

Because of this missionary commitment, the Adventist Church has work established in 212 out of the 235 countries and areas of the world, and the restored truths are preached in 401 languages and dialects.

We testify that we trust that God is leading this prophetic movement when we distribute our “Promise” offerings to equally support the mission of our local congregation and

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regional and international missionary needs. The Combined Offering Plan, endorsed and promoted by the General Conference, recommends that fifty to sixty percent of our total offering should support the missionary work of the local church. Twenty to thirty percent should support the regional missionary endeavors of the conference and Union, and twenty percent should always support the World Mission Fund (or World Budget), providing equitable growth. As we return our tithe and "Promise" Offerings, may we work together, putting our desires last and God first.